



**St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church
Parish Council Meeting
824 Pershing Drive, Silver Spring, MD
Monday, November 4, 2019
7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

St. Michael's Mission:

Guided by the Holy Spirit, St. Michael the Archangel Church brings the parish and the community closer to the Lord through worship, love and stewardship so that all may be one in Christ.

St. Michael's Vision:

A dynamic community of faith, celebrating our growing diversity as a beacon of the new evangelization.

PRESENT: Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino, Lisa Taylor, Edwin Mendez, Esnath Mtonga, Christina Sian, Jason Giovannetone, Maricela Tobar, Eliamelisa Gonzalez, John Webster, Scot Hawkins, Anna Smith, Renee Holder, Helder Hernandez.

- I. Call to Order and Welcome** **Lisa Taylor** 7:08 p.m.
- II. Opening Prayer/Reflection** **Msgr. Tolentino**
 - A. Monsignor Tolentino asked everyone what is our minds today, what are we thankful for today. Everyone gave their own thoughts.
 - B. Monsignor commented on the life of Saint Charles Borromeo since today, November 4, we are celebrating his feast day. He feels the same amazement when the parish is working at his best.
- III. Approval of the October Minutes** **Eliamelisa Gonzalez**
 - A. Comments: John Webster commented there are a few grammatical corrections but Lisa fixed them.
 - B. Motion: John Webster: First. Jason Seconded.
- IV. Approval of Agenda** **Lisa Taylor**
 - A. Motion: John Webster, Eliamelisa seconded.
- V. Report from the Finance Council** **John Webster**
 - A. Last time we looked at the Balance Sheet. This time we are looking at month to month operations.

- B. We are on a lost in terms of Finance. We are not bringing enough income to sustain us. We need to look at how we either cut expenses or grow income, or a combination of both. We are short at least \$6,000.00 per month.
- C. We need to work on the Take the Next Step program.
- D. It's also a question of evangelization. Mass attendance is going down.
- E. Lisa has a question: What recommendation we have to grow income besides evangelization, John replies we are doing the take the next step program. John Webster says that in the stewardship box in the bulletin is meaningless because it only looks at a portion of the offertory, not fully. He suggests having a deeper explanation of the monthly expenses. In addition, evangelization, we need to see how do we get more people in here and have them participate. Msgr. Tolentino said we need to refer this to Finance Committee and Evangelization Committee. He asks: Do we still have vacancies for the PC? Lisa says we have an opening for 2.
- F. Stewardship box: John Webster's suggests having a box in the bulletin to explain more. Monsignor says: We need to give our first fruits back to God. Monsignor's approached will always be Give to God what we have to give. If we can get the priests, PC, and everyone to see how can we give more to God. Been transparent won't mean anything unless we are teaching. Eliamelisa asks: Can we do a registration campaign?
- G. Take the Next Step: John Webster: how can we incorporate this need to tide? Monsignor said to ask the clergy: Are they encourage to be faithful to them.
- H. Anna Smith: This parish is extremely generous when people know where is the money is going. Msgr Tolentino: Anna is right but there needs to be consistency. We will find this in the Green Project, if we don't constantly think and work on it, it will go down. Doing green is expensive, right now we don't have the monies to go ahead. Fr. Jazek wants to partner with us. Msgr. Asks who do we know in our community that can tell us that. Lisa asks: Can Finance Council do brainstorming? Monsignor said if FC, it belongs to a Stewardship Committee. Does the FC wants to work on finance only? Or Stewardship? Msgr.'s suggestion for Take the Next Step is: Week of November 17...Celebrants speak 24, and Commitment is December 1, and follow up on December 8.
- I. Finance Council and Parish Council are the ones that need to work on this. Members asked, does this help? Webster said it has worked. The only way this will change, monsignor says, is that we go out there and promote it. We need to promote it. Mailing goes out to Faith Direct.
- J. We need to begin announcing thins such as: Finance, take the next step, and green project. Have email blasts. etc. We need to also do acts of service for the poor. Now, we need to ask, what are we doing for the souls. Jason says: 2 reasons to do Take the Next Step in January would be because is the new year when everyone makes their new year's resolution. In addition, December people spend more. Monsignor replies that Jason is right, but we also need to think how people will think before and it might make them reflect. Monsignor says maybe we should do both.
- K. Renee Holder: What is different this year to say that it will work? If we have communities that have more ownership. Don't just ask people to give.
- L. Helder Hernandez: Are there any other avenues that we can use to approach it? Can we do this in a more personal way? Making it personal would work much better. Also taking into account the cultures. Have people say stories. Monsignor wants to ask all a question: Everyone believes in God? Everyone knows that God gives everything to us, knowing that, what can we say to you to encourage you to make an offering to

God? Monsignor asks: What needs to be said to you that you would say in return, I have to give back my first fruits to God. Eliamelisa: Understanding that this Word is given to you for free and having an experience that nurture you, among others. People are not in the most generous mood is because we only think about ourselves. Jason: Has a good friend that he is Muslim, he gives 10 per cent and is very strict about it, there is no option. Most Muslims feel they have to give 10. Lisa asks everyone to be registered members.

M. Distribution of Money for the Poor Box

This is a follow up item. Monsignor's idea to use money for homeless in the parish only. Anna suggests the gift cards. Consensus among members is: \$10 for transportation metro cards, \$25 Safeway or giant, plus meal bag, \$3,000.00 yearly for Catholic Charities, Shepherds Table. Monsignor says we will move this to the Finance Council to follow up.

N. Refurbishment of the Kneelers

No updates

VI. Report from the Hispanic Committee

Helder Hernandez

A. Helder hoped everyone got a chance to review minutes. Three things to highlight: Hispanic Committee Retreat on March 5, 2019. Deacon Trinidad and Oscar Mendez are tentative speakers. Besides the retreat, Alejandro Titus from USCCB has been invited to teach the seven principles to Hispanic Committee on a day of formation. On another note, 5 more children are been prepared to become lectors at the 1:00 p.m. mass.

VII. 7 Principles Service Report

Lisa Taylor

We need to go back to this document on the 7 principles and retreat ideas. Monsignor asks: Can Lisa, Darrel and him meet? Lisa says in the meantime if you have suggestions please send to her.

a. Life and Dignity of the Human Person (Lisa Taylor)

1. Diaper Drive and winter coat drive – Anna Smith / Jason More will be distributing and helping at the winter coat drive. We need volunteer for Wed. November 27, 2019. We will finalize a way. We got to find a way to pass this to the parishioners.

2. CRASE Training – Soon

b. Call to Family, Community and Participation (Edwin Mendez)

c. Rights and Responsibilities (Marisela Tobar)

d. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable (Anna Smith)

1. Winter Clothing Drive

e. Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers (John Webster)

f. Solidarity (Cristina Sian)

g. Care for God's Creation (Jason Giovannettone)

Met with Fr. Jazek, he went to St. Camillus, we need to have a deanery meeting and invite the archbishop, and then this would be a way to have ADW into the formation of priests. If we can get the Archbishop to a Deanery Meeting this would be the perfect way to have the Archdiocese work on going green campaigns. Monsignor met with the Deanery last weekend in October. Next tentative meeting would be in January... Second point: Jason talked about

Reemberto from the Civic Center in Silver Spring. He got in touch with him to get the Green Project to the community as well as the parish. A final thing he mentioned is Possibility of the parish having an owned property and then improving it for low income housing. Monsignor Tolentino: There are several people interested in many of our properties. The best thing to do is for ADW and the parish to put in a Request for proposal. Eventually, next year, if we decide to go ahead and pursue this, then he will speak to Michelle at ADW. We need to decide how are we moving forward with this. Lisa said: Fr. Joe and Maggie from Catholic Charities came to offer a grant. Jason: Looking at the Chesapeake Bay Grant. He should find out this year if we win a \$22,000.

VIII. Administrative Matters

Lisa Taylor

- a. **Status of Tabernacle Refurbishment** – Grant Orr came out, and we need to see when will be do this? There was an offer from someone that they would be willing to pay the entire amount because of the relationship with Monsignor, and this way the money that was collected will be used for another reason. Vincent Ventimiglia donated it.
- b. **St. Michael’s email and Parishioners Databases** – Will talk about after next meeting.
- c. **Childcare for Marriage Workshops** – John Webster mentioned having this for marriage ministry. John Webster has talked to Benjamin. This will be followed up.
- d. **Stewardship Report in the weekly bulletin** – Already spoken.
- e. **Evangelization Meeting** - Lisa would like the following members: Maricela, Eliamelisa, Father Santiago, Deacon Curtis, and Cristina Sian to talk about the evangelization committee.
- f. **Worship Committee:** Monsignor requests for a meeting. Eliamelisa and Edwin will remind Monsignor and find a date for this.
- g. **Upcoming Events**
 - a. **Prayer Breakfast for Married and Engaged Couples on November 16**
 - b. **Health Screening & Immigration Consultation, November 17, 9am – 2**
 - c. **NFP Classes (December 14, March 7, June 27)**
- h. **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**
 - a. December 2, 2019
 - b. January 6, 2020 – We will have a New Year’s celebration... Holiday party. 7pm. Eliamelisa will do the signup genius.
 - c. **February 3, 2020**
 - d. **March 2, 2020**
 - e. **April 6, 2020**
 - f. **May 4, 2020**
 - g. **June 1, 2020**

IX. Pending Business

Lisa Taylor/Parish Council

Monsignor Tolentino: Our parish financial report was released on October 21. Special thanks to Michelle Webster for helping with this.

X. New Business

Lisa Taylor

XI. Closing Prayer

Father Santiago

Next Meeting: December 2, 2019

***REMINDER** –Parish Council members assigned to serve as liaison officers to Councils, Committees and Ministries are responsible for serving as ministry coordinators and for keeping the Parish Council informed of ministry activities and new information or challenges of which the Council should be aware through monthly reports submitted no later than one week in advance of a Council meeting.*